Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) is being increased year after year. The Department has sanctioned new projects covering 62 lac ha. in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, as against new projects covering 52 lac ha. during four years from 1995-96 to 1998-99. The budget allocation of the Department of Land Resources has been increased from Rs. 324 crores in 1999-2000 to Rs. 900 crores in 2001-2002.

The Guidelines for Watershed Development have been revised, effective from 1.9.2001, to provide for greater role to Panchayati Raj Institutions, a Twin Track Approach, an Exit Protocol and provision for availing the credit facility from financial institutions to ensure higher value addition to the interventions.

The cost norms for the Watershed Development Projects under three Programmes have also been enhanced to Rs. 6000/- per ha. from the earlier cost norms ranging from Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 5000/- per ha. w.e.f. 1.4.2000.

(c) and (d) A reference for sanctioning 1000 additional DPAP/ DDP projects was received from the State Government. Keeping in view the commitment for ongoing watershed projects and budget allocations 166 DPAP projects and 80 DDP projects could be sanctioned for the Programme Districts in Andhra Pradesh during 2001-2002. In addition, 200 Watershed Projects have been sanctioned under Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihoods Project aided by the Department for International Development, UK. Each project covers 500 ha. approximately. In addition 9 new projects have also been prioritised for sanction under IWDP for covering an area of 50,000 ha. during the year.

Water to All by 2010

*339. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a programme, Water to All by 2010;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to involve important persons such as winners of Magsasay Award and NGOs in the implementation of the programme; and

(c) if so, the details of the programme and the persons likely to be involved?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (c) While there is no programme titled "Water to All by 2010", as per the National Agenda for Governance of the Government of India, it is proposed to cover all rural habitations with drinking water supply facilities by the year 2004. Government of India have launched reforms in the Rural Water Supply sector for institutionalising community participation through demand-responsive and decentralised approaches in 63 identified Districts in 26 States. The entire rural community, including NGOs and prominent personalities/experts, are to be involved in the implementation of the reforms.

Check on Coal Mafia

*340. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of coal mafia syndicates are running parallel administrtion in the coal belts in Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any serious efforts to check such parallel administration of coal mafia's;

(c) whether the officials of CIL and its subsidiaries dare having close links with coal mafia's and providing all necessary help to them;

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to remove coal mafia's in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) Whenever reports of any irregularities are received, the Coal Companies take necessary corrective measures: